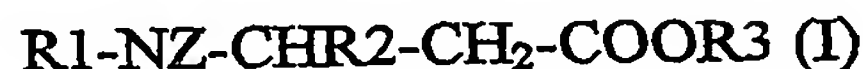


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CLAIMS

1 - Process for producing enantiopure β -amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)



5 in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues optionally forming a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

10 comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)



in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

15 R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a lipase.

20 2 - Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring preferably comprising from 4 to 8 atoms, more particularly from 5 to 7 atoms.

3 - Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom preferably chosen from N, O and S.

25 4 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group, in particular an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group.

5 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

30 6 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which the lipase is *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase.

7 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which the hydrolysis is

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carried out at a temperature of 0 to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

9 - Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which

5 (a) an enantiopure β -amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of any one of Claims 1 to 8;

(b) the enantiopure β -amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10 - Enantiopure β -amino acid derivative corresponding to general formula (I)

10 R_1 -NZ-CHR₂-CH₂-COOR₃ (I)

in which the substituents R₁ and R₂ form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said heterocycle comprising at least one additional hetero atom,

R₃ denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group.

15 11 - Enantiopure β -amino acid derivative according to Claim 10, in which the heterocycle comprises from 5 to 7 atoms and the additional hetero atom is chosen from N, O and S.

12 - Peptide or peptide analogue which can be obtained using, in the process for producing it, an enantiopure β -amino acid derivative according to Claim 10 or

20 11.